(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia,* indicating those that are proposed to be revived in Orissa State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) (a) The Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) since June, 2001 on 70:30 cost sharing basis between the Central Government and the respective State Government with its objective to restore and conserve the polluted and degraded lakes in urban and semi-urban areas in the country. In order to identify polluted and degraded lakes across the country, a study was carried out at the instance of Planning Commission. A list of 62 lakes across the country (including Bindusagar Lake in Orissa) requiring conservation, was prepared under the study. The State Governments were asked to review this list and to prioritize the lakes in their States for submission of proposals under NLCP. New lakes under the Plan are sanctioned on the basis of their prioritization, admissibility and availability of funds under NLCP.

(b) The proposal received from the State Government of Orissa for 'Conservation and Management of Bindusagar Lake' only in Bhubaneshwar has since been sanctioned in March, 2006, at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.50 crore.

Degradation of environment by higher income groups

2209. SMT. HEMA MALINI:
SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the so called Elite of our country are responsible for "Global Warming" effects in this part of the world;

(b) whether the "Green Peace India" published any report in November, 2007 regarding degradation of environment by higher income groups of the country; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the reaction of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) (a) Elite lifestyles and behaviour patterns including consumption patterns contribute to 'Global Warming' across various countries in the same manner.

(b) and (c) An organisation called "Green Peace India" published a report in November 2007 with the title 'Hiding behind the poor'. This report is stated to be based on face-to-face surveys of 819 households from the seven different income classes across the four metros, medium and small towns and rural areas for energy consumption patterns. According to the report, the average CO_2 emissions of an individual from the highest income group is 4.5 times that of one from the lowest income group. The report also states that this wealthy class is just 1% of the population.

The report states that the high carbon intensity of electricity is due to a 67% share of coal (as the major fossil fuel) in the production of electricity and recommends that government should revise its electricity generation plans. It also recommends that Indian Government should develop a carbon tax system under which the use of fossil fuels shall be taxed.

The Government of India is aware of its responsibilities and though as per United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol, thereunder India has no mitigation commitments, however, India is following a sustainable development path through a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change and thereby reduce emissions. Some of the measures include: ensuring energy conservation and improved energy efficiency in various sectors as well as setting up of Bureau of Energy Efficiency; promoting use of renewable energy; power sector reforms and active renewable energy programme; use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport; fuel, switching to cleaner energy; afforestation and conservation of forests and promotion of clean coal technologies. Lastly, through the regime of differentiated duties and tariffs, superfluous consumption is sought to be curbed.

Red List of Threatened Plant Species 2007

2210. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Conservation Union put 45 tree species across India on its " Red List of Threatened Plant Species 2007" and has further flagged 247 species as "threatened";

(b) if so, whether these threatened species are being overused for medicinal or religious purposes without adequate conservation; and

(c) the steps Botanical Survey of India is adopting to preserve forest culture especially in view of alarming situation developing due to global warming also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) (a) Yes, Sir. The World Conservation Union has listed 247 Indian plant species as threatened, including 45 species which are critically endangered.

(b) and (c) In order to ensure sustainability of these plant species, the Government has taken several steps to protect and propagate the flora of the country through creation of Protected Areas like National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries and Biospere Reserves for *in-situ* conservation. The government is also extending financial support to the Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah, Botanic Garden of the Indian Republic, NOIDA, associated gardens of Botanical Survey of India and other institutions under the scheme of 'Assistance to Botanic Gardens' for promoting *ex-situ* conservation.

The Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Biological Diversity Act, 2002 with the aim of conservation and sustainable utilisation of flora of the country.

Polluted rivers of the country

2211. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rivers in the country which are highly polluted, State-wise;

(b) the total financial assistance provided by Central Government to State Governments for cleaning of the rivers during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of rivers in the country in which the various types of aquatic lives are now extinct; and

(d) the steps taken to bring these rivers back to life again?